Garden State Region News-February 21, 2025





Sweet As Can Bee





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Click on the Calendar icon for 2024-2025 GSR Calendar
All times listed are Eastern Time



MESSAGE FROM SHEILA KAUFMAN, GSR PRESIDENT

Dear Traci,

Shalom!

February has a bunch of notable days in it... Groundhog Day, Valentines' Day, Lincoln's Birthday, and George Washington's Birthday. This year, Presidents' Day was Monday, the 17th, it is also Random Act of Kindness Day. I am not going to be political, but this year I prefer to celebrate the latter. My husband and I went down to visit my mother and celebrated her birthday two weeks later as she was sick during that time. We spent the day together and took her out to lunch and came home to have a cake that I made. She could not stop eating it. I know that might not be random, but she needed the company and my husband kept her laughing.

Doing kind acts should not be left to a one day thing but whenever and wherever you see it. It does not take planning, but just a matter of acting! As the slogan says, "Just Do It!" It will make you feel good and so will the receiver! So February does have "heart" in many ways and everyday!



Please send in your sisterhood program flyers that you want to invite others to as well as a couple of photos from your programs to Traci Sachs and myself for inclusion in our Newsletters and it will be forwarded to be included on our website. If you noticed, we are sending an eblast of programs during the week between Newsletters. So take advantage of us and our outreach. If you have a program please invite myself and Sindy Manas, if it is a Torah Fund program, we would love to come!

May the hostages continue to come home to their loved ones.

I am thrilled to say that the Region will once again have our Women of Achievement Gala Event on Monday, June 9 at 6 pm at Congregation B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick.

More information will be forthcoming. So **SAVE THE DATE!**

Ahm Yisrael Chai,

Sheila

Sheila Kaufman President, Garden State Region WLCJ gsrpresident24@wlcj.org

"Networking to engage, enrich and empower Conservative Jewish women"

2024-2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President - Sheila Kaufman

VP, Programming - Susan Winter

VP, Sisterhood/Affiliate Support - Cheryl Sessler

VP, Torah Fund - Sindy Manas

Secretary, Communications - Traci Sachs

Secretary, Corresponding - <u>Susan Sferas</u>

Secretary, Financial - Lisa Katz

Secretary, Recording - Carol Kotch

Treasurer - <u>Donna Franklin</u>

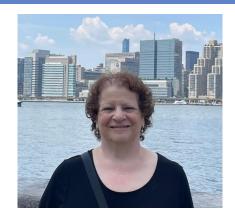
Parliamentarian - <u>Dorothy Cohen</u>

Immediate Past President - <u>Lynette Seader</u>

Advisor to the Board - Meryl Balaban

Advisor to the Board - Heddy Belman

Have you heard about the Torah Fund Legacy Society? It is an opportunity to make a gift beyond our lifetime to Torah Fund. As with donations to the current campaign, all bequests, large and small are welcome. There is no minimum gift required and no expectation of payment while you are living. As a member of the Legacy Society you will receive a beautiful charm that hangs down from your Torah Fund pin. The charm will be moved each year to your current pin. The funds are currently used to



sustain the five institutions of higher Jewish learning of the Conservative/Masorti movement worldwide. Additional information can be located at: https://www.jtsa.edu/hidden-page/torah-fund-legacy-society/

Our Creating New Spaces Campaign has raised \$ 188,388 to date. There is only \$ 11,612 left to reach our goal of \$ 200,000. This campaign provides funds for the Women's League Institute on Gender Bias and Harassment at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and a study space at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Join us in our efforts to remind the world that Am Yisrael Chai (The People of Israel live) by continuing to donate to Torah Fund to support our five Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher education. Your generous donation to Torah Fund helps the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, Schechter Institutes of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and the new Abraham Joshua Heschel Seminary in Potsdam, Germany.

Donors are encouraged to donate to Torah Fund online as processing is much faster and receipts are given immediately. Please remember to indicate your Sisterhood/Affiliate and its location when you donate.

I would love to attend the Torah Fund Events you are planning. Please send me an invitation.

Am Yisrael Chai,

Sindy Manas Torah Fund Vice President Garden State Region Smanas750e@gmail.com (908) 208-8230

GSR PROGRAM DATES 2024-2025

March 17 at 7:30 pm; Coffee and Conversation Passover Cooking Program on Zoom *please note this is a date change.

June 9 at 6:00 pm; Women of Achievement Gala Event



Passover Cooking with The Chef's Daughter - Yvette Schlussel

Monday, March 17, 2025 7:30 PM Via Zoom

Zoom link will be sent out the week of the program.



Yvette Schlussel, "the Chef's Daughter," has given numerous cooking demonstrations over the years to women's organizations to share her love of delicious, nutritious meals and healthy cooking techniques. Yvette is a member of the East Brunswick Jewish Center Sisterhood.

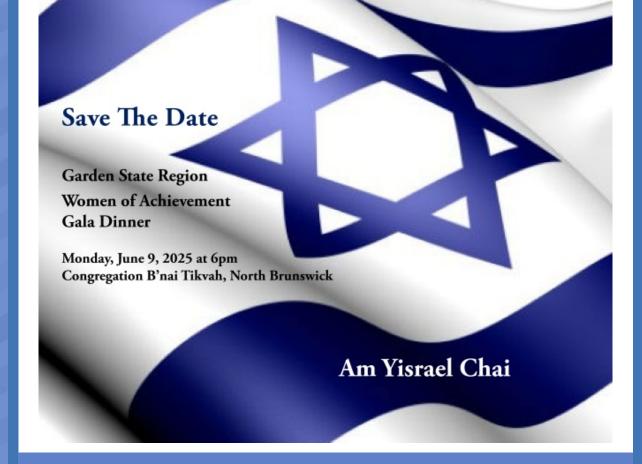
Yvette will be making Argentine Roast Chicken, Health Salad, Sephardic Macaroons, and Moroccan Muhammar. The recipes will be sent out before the program, so you can get the ingredients if you want to cook along with Yvette.

The Garden State Region is putting together a digital Passover cookbook of your favorite recipes. A digital copy will be sent out after the event to all registrants. Please send your recipes to Traci Sachs at gsrcommunications@wlcj.org by March 14. When you submit the recipes, please include the ingredients and step by step directions. Let us know if it is a vegetarian dish, and if it contains nuts, dairy and/or gluten.

Upon registration, you will receive a link for the ingredients and recipes.

More Info: Susan Winter - Winter.Susan@gmail.com Sheila Kaufman - GSRPresident24@wlcj.org

Register



SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

FINDING YOUR VOICE: A WEEKEND WITH PIONEERING CLERGY IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH - SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST

Join us for an eye-opening weekend with two of Judaism's modern trailblazers, one of the first female and one of the first trans clergy members, as they share their stories and their music, their challenges and triumphs, helping us find our own voices along the way.

This program is a collaboration of CBI and the CBI Sisterhood

Events:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH @ 6:00PM

- · Congregational Shabbat Dinner
- 'Finding Her Voice' Cantor Mandell's Story and Journey (Services begin @ 7:30PM)

SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST @ 9:30AM

- 'Finding Their Voice' Cantor Jacobson's Story and Journey
- 'Singing a New Song: Gender Minorities in the Cantorate' Panel Discussion & Q+A after Kiddush

SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST @ 7:00PM

- 'Finding Your Voice' Evening Concert with Cantors Jacobson and Mandell
- Featuring Dave Schlossberg on plano (Dessert Reception to follow)

Featuring:



SUSAN MANDELL One of the first female clergy in Jewish history



KALIX JACOBSON One of the first transgender clergy in Jewish history

Save Your Spot for each event: https://www.cbinj.org/form/whmshabbat2025

Congregation

cbinj.org

18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 (908) 889-1830

Register



Musicians
Singers
Folk Music
Broadway
Comedians
Dancers
Jazz

HPCT- CAE Sisterhood's Cabaret Night

Saturday, March 1, 2025 8 PM Tabak Hall

Come Join us...



as we present entertainment for the whole community!

Entrance Fee - \$18 per person by 2/26 \$20 at the door

Wine, snacks and delectable desserts will be served.

For more information and reservations, please contact Helene Knee - kneenote@gmail.com Sandy Gomez - sandygem61@gmail.com

HPCT-CAE, 201 S. 3rd Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904



732-545-6482

Contact Helen Knee



Community Mitzvah Day Community-wide day of service Sunday, March 30

Registration coming soon!

Join us and create positive change in Greater MetroWest NJ!
Hundreds of people will unite for a full day of volunteer opportunities, putting our
Jewish values into action by doing hands-on service and *mitzvot* (good deeds) that
make a real impact on the lives of others and our community.

Stay tuned for more information and registration coming soon! We'll have activities for volunteers of all ages, both in-person and at-home.

We support and #StandWithIsrael as we continue to build a strong Jewish community here in NJ.

Questions? Contact <u>mitzvah@jfedgmw.org</u>.

Please send your programs that you would like posted to both <u>Traci Sachs</u> and <u>Sheila Kaufman</u> as well as a couple of photos from your event.

Prayer Links and Ways to Donate to Israel

https://www.wlcj.org/supporting-israel-in-crisis-was-to-help-and-donate/

Downloads to recite at home, in your synagogue and at other gatherings:

- Prayer for the Welfare and the Return of our Kidnapped Brothers and Sisters (Hebrew and English)
- <u>Updated list of hostages, to be used in prayers for their speedy and safe</u>
 <u>return</u> (English the list is continually being updated and includes names of all
 hostages who we believe to still be alive)
- <u>Prayer in Times of War Fall 5784</u> (Hebrew and English)

BRING THEM HOME NOW Freedom Tags

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum is offering a discount for WLCJ members on their freedom tags.

To take advantage of this deal, please use this link:

Click here to make your purchase use Discount code JNOW

Discount will show upon checkout.





Torah Fund supports programs and scholarships at the five Conservative/Masorti global institutes of higher education.



Announcing Our 2024-2025 Campaign Theme:

Am Yisrael Chai עם ישראל חי

The people of Israel live

We strive to make a significant impact through scholarships and programs that benefit students at The Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institutes, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano and Zacharias Frankel College.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we help committed Jewish students become the rabbis, cantors, educators, synagogue administrators, social workers, scholars, researchers and lay leaders of tomorrow.

When you support Torah Fund, you help educate students in New York, Los Angeles, Israel, Latin America and Europe—and you align with those who value learning, knowledge and providing the future generation with relevant skills to fortify the Jewish people.

Visit www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund

Am Yisrael Chai is an expression of Jewish solidarity for the Jewish nation and the continuity of the Jewish people. We help ensure the future of worldwide Jewish communities through our support of the five Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher education.



PLEASE GIVE TO TORAH FUND!

TORAH FUND GIVING LEVELS

Keter Kavod \$5,000 Scholarship Patron \$2,500 Patron \$1,200 Associate Patron \$600 Guardian \$300 Benefactor \$180 FOR OUR U.S. SUPPORTERS, go to inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund Or send your check to the Torah Fund office.

FOR OUR CANADIAN SUPPORTERS, go to torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian Make a donation of any amount with the minimum purchase of one ecard.

Or send a check to The Jewish Theological Society, 100 Elder Street, North York, Ontario, M3H 5G7.

The dedicated philanthropy of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Torah Fund supports scholarships and programs in the worldwide Conservative/ Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning.

TORAH FUND

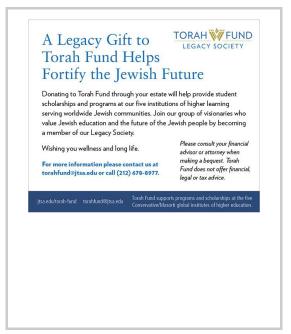
3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027 (212) 678-8876 www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund • torahfund@jtsa.edu <u>Click HERE</u> to donate to this year's 2024-25 Torah Fund Campaign, Am Yisrael Chai

Click HERE to donate to the Creating New Spaces Campaign
Click HERE to donate to the Torah Fund Legacy Society
Click HERE for the Torah Fund Chadashot Newsletter

Torah Fund pins will be distributed in September.

Any questions please e-mail Lisa Paule lipaule@jtsa.edu or Sherrill Moss-Solomon shsolomon@jtsa.edu or call the Torah Fund Office 212-678-8027.





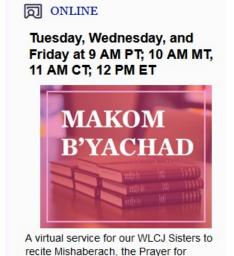


Engaging Enriching and Empowering Jewish Women Women s League for Conservative Judaism

DONATE TO WLCJ

520 8th Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10018 | Phone: 405-870-1260 | info@wlcj.org

WL WEEK



Healing, recite the Psalm of the Day, study

and recite Kaddish together.



Previous WLCJ Programming

Weren't able to join us? Visit our <u>Youtube Channel</u> for more videos. View our past recordings.

Visit Youtube

Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/630830287 Meeting ID: 630 830 287

Password: 875936

Want to sing, teach, help with technology, and more during Daily Psalm Study, and Kaddish?

Sign Up

Sisters Helping Sisters for the California Fires

Women's League has created this fund to support the Sisterhood of Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center, Pacific Southwest Region, and any other WLCJ Sisterhood Affiliates affected by the 2025 wildfires in California. 100% of the donations are going to emergency relief and will be distributed to and at the direction of our affected Sisterhood Affiliates.



Donate

GOOD AND WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGIONShare your news and nachas with us!

Birthday Wishes

Wishing all who have February birthdays, Yom Huledet Sameach!

Refuah Shlemah

Sindy Manas, GSR Torah Fund VP

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

- Robert Solomon z"l, husband of Judy Solomon, past Congregation Torat El Sisterhood President and former Garden State Region Board member.
- Sheri Gorelick z"l, beloved sister of Bonnie Panzok, BQLI Ways and Means VP
- Shirley Morrison z"l, past Connecticut Valley Branch President

DONATIONS

Make a Donation to the Garden State Region to:

- Honor someone special
- Wish a Mazel Tov to a Bar/Bat Mitzvah family
- Send get well wishes
- Send condolences

Our Scholarship Fund helps to send women to WLCJ Convention and Leadership Institute where they learn necessary skills to share with our sisterhoods.

The Sunshine Fund supports members of the GSR Board in their time of need.

The Evelyn Auerbach Education Fund to sponsor an annual GSR Region educational event.

To make donations, contact Donna Franklin GSR Treasurer, at gsrtreasurer@wlcj.org and

include which fund(s) to make the donation to.

Or mail your check payable to "GSR-WLCJ" to Donna Franklin, 7 Liddy Place, West Caldwell, NJ 07006 Donations can also be made via Credit Card.

Donate to GSR using Credit Card

Share your Sisterhood Happenings with us! Look for all the info both here and on our Website & Facebook pages!



Follow the Garden State Region!

If you would like to contribute a flyer or picture to upload please forward to **Traci Sachs** and **Sheila Kaufman**.

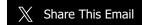
Click <u>here</u> to connect with the Garden State Region Facebook page. Click <u>here</u> to visit the Garden State Region website.

Make sure to click both **Like** and **Follow**. It's another great way to learn about everything happening in our Region.











Visit our Website

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Traci Sachs
GSR Secretary Communications / Newsletter Editor
gsrcommunications@wlcj.org

Garden State Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism | 24 Yale Street | Maplewood, NJ 07040 US

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